GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5444
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005
GROSS STATE DOMESTIC PRODUCT
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimates of Gross State Domestic Product from agriculture during the last three years. State-wise;

(b) the details of average per capita income in respect of a marginal fanner, medium farmer and farmers with large land holding, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment of the adequacy of income for meeting the basic needs of cultivators;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the conditions of farmers during 2005-06?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRi kanti lal bhuria)

(a): The state wise estimates of Gross Domestic Product from Agriculture both at constant (1993-94) and current prices are given in Annexure I.

(b): The information on average per capita income in respect of marginal, medium and farmers with large holdings is not available. Since people engaged in agriculture constitute the majority of rural population, the details of average per capita expenditure by broad categories of consumer expenditure on `food`, `non-food` and `total` in the rural sector, state-wise, are given in the Annexure II.

(c)to(e): Most of the Indian farmers are resource poor. About 62% of the farmers operate marginal holdings of less than 1 hectare, while about 19% operate holdings of 1 - 2 hectares. Government has, therefore, been implementing a number of schemes covering price support aimed at ensuring remunerative prices for major agricultural commodities, compensation for crop loss, subsidised inputs, etc. Experience shows that the factors contributing to the poor economic lot of Indian farmers include poor marketing infrastructure, low levels of investment in irrigation and inadequate flow of credit to agriculture. The Union Budget for 2005-06 has, therefore, provided higher allocation for irrigation, proposed further step up in credit flow to agriculture, and introduced new schemes for promoting horticulture and marketing.

(i) Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP): It was launched in 1996-97 to encourage the states for completion of on-going irrigation projects through Central Loan Assistance. This has been reviewed recently and the focus has been on completion of last mile projects. In 2005-06 an outlay of Rs.4800 crore has been provided to improve the pace of implementation compared with Rs.2,800 crore in 2004-05.

(ii) Micro Irrigation: Rs.400 crore has been allocated for promoting micro irrigation through drip and sprinkler irrigation in the year 2005-06 to enhance water use efficiency.

(iii) Agriculture Credit: The banking sector comprising cooperative banks, regional rural banks and commercial banks disbursed Rs.108, 500 crore in 2004-05, which is to be raised by 30% in 2005-06.

(iv) National Horticulture Mission: A sum of Rs.630 crores have been provided for promoting research, production, post harvest management, processing and marketing in an integrated manner.

(v) Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing infrastructure, Grading and Standardization: A sum of Rs.72 crore has been allocated to attract large investment from private and cooperative sectors to set up agricultural markets, marketing and support services such as grading, standardization etc.

(vi) Agricultural Research: A sum of Rs. 1150 crore has been provided for agricultural research and education in 2005-06 compared with Rs.1000 crore in 2004-05.